USSOCOM Command Surgeon

SOF Medicine Overview
• History
• Mission
• The SOF Team
• SOF Truths
• SOF Medicine
• Questions
“It was risky and we knew it, but it had a good chance of success and America had the courage to try.” (Holloway Report). Eight Airmen and Marines died, eight aircraft were lost and American Hostages spent an additional 244 days in captivity.
Established the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities ASD (SOLIC-IC)
Unified Commands

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

CJCS

SERVICE CHIEFS

U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

U.S. CYBER COMMAND

U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

U.S. Special Operations Command

U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

FUNCTIONAL COMMAND

GEOGRAPHIC COMMAND

U.S. CYBER COMMAND

U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

U.S. AFRICA COMMAND

FUNCTIONAL COMMAND

GEOGRAPHIC COMMAND
A Unique Command

A Combatant Command

- Command of all SOF
- Synchronize planning for global operations against terrorist networks
- Deploy SOF to support GCCs
- As directed, conduct operations globally
- Plan & execute pre-crisis activities

...with legislated Military Department-like authorities

- Organize, train, equip SOF
- Develop SOF strategy, doctrine, and tactics
- Program and budget for SOF
- RDT&E / Procure SOF-peculiar equipment
- Monitor management of SOF personnel
- Ensure interoperability
- Conduct internal audits
SOF Mission and Vision

**Mission**
Synchronize the planning of special operations and provide SOF to support persistent, networked, and distributed Geographic Combatant Command (GCC) operations to protect and advance our nation’s interests.

**Vision**
SOF provides strategic options for our national leaders and the GCCs we support through a Global Network that fully integrates our military, interagency, and international partners.
SOF Core Activities & Operations

- Counter-proliferation of WMD
- Counterterrorism
- Special Reconnaissance
- Direct Action
- Unconventional Warfare
- Foreign Internal Defense

- Civil Affairs Operations
- Information Operations
- Psychological Operations
- Security Force Assistance
- Counterinsurgency Operations
- Activities Specified by the President or SECDEF
Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOCs)
Humans are more important than hardware

Quality is better than quantity

Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced

Competent Special Operations Forces cannot be created after emergencies occur

Most SOF operations require non-SOF support
SOF Priorities

Ensure SOF Readiness
“The right people, skills, and capabilities...now and in the future”

Help Our Nation Win
“Addressing today’s challenges and keeping the Nation Safe”

Continue to Build Relationships
“Global Understanding and awareness that creates options”

Prepare for the Future
“SOF ready to win in an increasing complex world”

Preserve Our Force and Families
“Short and long-term well-being of our SOF Warriors and their Families”
The SOF Operator

12% of our Operators are Minorities
1.6% of our Operators are Women
4 deployments on average
31 is the average Enlisted age
34 is the average Officer age
13 year average TIS Officer
11 year average TIS Enlisted
1.3 average dependent
12.7 years of Education Enlisted
16.5 years of Education Officer

56,675 total military assigned to SOCOM Enterprise

AFSOC, 16331, 29%
NSWC, 8681, 15%
MARSOC, 2967, 5%
USASOC, 27489, 49%
HQ SOCOM, 1207, 2%
POTFF Lines of Effort

- Strength and Conditioning
- Advanced Rehabilitation
- Sleep Hygiene
- Cognitive processing
- Assessment & Selection
- Post-deployment and periodic assessment
- Immediate, proximate care/consultation
- Integration of family into all aspects of care
- SOF unique family programs
- Specialized pastoral teams
- Responsive and knowledgeable staff
- Predictability
7245 SOF deployed to 89 countries, 2 territories and 3 locations afloat.

- NORTCOM
  - 48 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 3
  - Locations - 4

- SOUTHCOM
  - 369 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 27
  - Locations - 12

- CENTCOM
  - 4016 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 17
  - Locations - 12

- EUCOM
  - 795 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 9
  - Locations - 27

- PACOM
  - 851 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 17
  - Locations - 19

- AFRICOM
  - 1166 personnel deployed
  - Missions - 27
  - Locations - 22

- Operation Atlantic Resolve
- Operation Inherent Resolve
- Operation Resolute
- Operation Juniper Shield
- Operation Octave Shield
- Operation Observant Compass
- Counter Transnational Organized Crime (C-TOC)
- Deter/Disrupt Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs)

Report Date: 10/24/2015 to 10/30/2015
Command Surgeon

**Mission:**
Advocate and synchronize Joint Health Service Support and innovation through persistent engagement.

**Vision:**
Global SOF Network that provides World Class Health Services.
Command Surgeon Organization

- Command Surgeon
  - Deputy SG & MED J-1 / 8
  - Manpower / RM
  - SEMA
  - CMD Psychologist
    - FMD/POTFF
  - CMD Veterinarian
  - MED J-2
    - FHP / Med Intel
  - MED J-3 / 5
    - Operations
  - MED J-4
    - Logistics / RDT&E
  - Clinical Ops
  - MED Log Intern
  - SOCOM Clinic

- Joint
- Reserve
- AF
- Army
- Navy
SOF Medical Planning Considerations

- Isolated, austere environments; immature theaters; distributed operations; extended LOCs
- Quick strike or protracted missions
- Missions may be sensitive & highly classified
- Limited organic medical assets (beyond Role 1 care)
- Evacuation requirements (Military & Contract)
- Host Nation Hospital use (HN vs US standard of care)
- Forward surgical capability (right-sized and responsive)
- Blood support
- Force Health Protection and biosurveillance
- Medical logistics challenges
- Veterinary support
USSOCOM Medical Enterprise Challenges

- Reliance on Service medical structure not optimized to support SOF operations
- Extreme distances and austere environments
- Application of the “golden hour” standard
- Full mission profile medical simulation (MEDSIM) limitations
- SOF lacks the ability to perform real-time environmental analysis
- Embedded Health Service Support-Needs Standardized Service Acceptance
- Service Specific Readiness, Credentialing, and Training Requirements. No Joint Standard.
USSOCOM Medical Enterprise Opportunities

- SOF peculiar research focused on TCCC and Prolonged Field Care
- Advanced Tactical Paramedic Certification Program of Record
- Global Biosurveillance Portal (G-BSP); integration and expansion
- MEDSIM and training.
- Expand Freeze Dried Plasma availability
- DVBIC Collaboration-USSOCOM DVBIC/Intrepid Initiative.
- MRT Study: POTFF collaboration now active research protocol for PTS and awaiting final IRB approval for TBI.
- Broad Collaboration with DHA, OSD-HA, USUHS, DVBIC, VA, Academia to tackle SOF Specific data collection, surveillance, and data storage.
- DARPA collaboration
- CNRM/SOF Brain Tissue Repository